

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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Keesler News on Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Gould shares vision for 2nd Air Force

New leader pays visit to Sheppard

By John Ingle

82nd Training Wing Public Affairs
SHEPPARD Air Force Base, Texas — Maj. Gen. Michael Gould's vision as the new 2nd Air Force commander is simple — produce the best expeditionary Airmen possible and give those who train them every resource available.

His two-pronged vision focuses on the Airmen-in-training and permanent party members at all Air Education and Training Command bases.

"What I want to do is ensure everyone in 2nd Air Force understands that those Airmen-in-training are the reason we are here," he said.

Please see **Gould**, Page 9



Air Force photo

General Gould, 2nd Air Force commander, tries his hand at artificially ventilating a "patient" during a visit to Sheppard's 82nd Training Group.

What's cooking?

Mobile couple feeds medics' Katrina victims

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Barbara and Robert Stevens have been traveling from Mobile to receive care at Keesler Medical Center for 20 years.

Robert is a retired Navy chief now employed as a supervisor at Mobile's Providence Hospital. Barbara maintains their home.

They recently traveled to Keesler so Barbara could see her physician, Maj. (Dr.) Michael Kenney, 81st Medical Operations Squadron. During the course

of the examination, she and Major Kenney happened to discuss Hurricane Katrina.

"When the doctor told me of the plight of so many Keesler hospital staff, I was extremely moved," Barbara said.

Major Kenney told her quite a few 81st Medical Group medics, like so many others on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, lost their homes and all their belongings, had to evacuate and are separated from their families.

"I cried halfway home. The rest of the way I planned how I could help in some

way," Barbara said of her inspiration.

She decided a Christmas "feast" would be just the thing to show her appreciation and concern for the medics and their hardships. She rallied support from several friends, family members and a local business.

"We started cooking and baking Wednesday (Dec. 7)," she said.

The Stevens brought what can only be called a feast to the medical center at

Please see **Stevens**, Page 9

COMMENTARY

Stay safe, 2nd Air Force, as you enjoy holiday season

By Maj. Gen. Mike Gould

2nd Air Force commander

As we close out another successful year, I thank everyone in 2nd Air Force for your tremendous efforts in overcoming the challenges this year has brought us.

We've worked hard and had good results. As we enter the holiday season, I wish everyone the best the season offers. Let's be sure to remember all the deployed personnel and appreciate their efforts so far away from their families and friends.

Closer to home, I'm reminded that every year, especially during the holidays, too many Air Force members die on our nation's highways. This is traditionally a period of elevated mishaps caused by increased activity and risk taking. This holiday season, while you're enjoying time off with your families and friends, please remember to keep safety in mind, both on and off the road.

Commanders, right now is the time for you to step out in front — I want each of you to stress the importance of operational risk management and basic safety procedures with your military training leaders and instructors. Everyone, from you to the first-line supervisors, should meet face-to-face with your stu-

dents, instructors and staff, stressing the importance of ORM and safety, as well as making a comprehensive review and control of Air Education and Training Command Forms 29B, travel plans.

I remind everyone to follow the Air Force's basic rules on safety, even when off-base or off-duty — buckle your seat belts, follow rules of the road, take extra care on snow and ice, use designated drivers and take proper rest breaks when driving long distances. It's much better to arrive a few minutes late than not arrive at all because you fell asleep at the wheel. Good, sound common sense goes a long way.

Finally, I realize there's no single answer to the prevention of needless accidents. However, by knowing our people, getting involved and educating them to avoid potentially dangerous situations, we can keep this holiday period mishap-free. Remember, we don't want any mishaps to be the result of a lack of professionalism or discipline.

I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday break and look forward to seeing everyone healthy and safe in the New Year.

By celebrating our differences we become closer together

By Capt. Kristi Divirgilis

Military equal opportunity office

With the winter holiday season upon us, we must strive to increase our awareness and appreciation of the different celebrations taking place.

Each special observance is a representation of the diversity of our nation. We're all unique, with different values and family structures.

Because of this diversity within our Air Force, we must recognize there are

many ways to celebrate the "holiday season." It's essential that we be respectful and encourage our differences in culture, traditions and values.

By recognizing how we're different as a people, we can learn from and enjoy the variety of celebrations held during this time of year.

Holding special observances provides opportunities to express ourselves and practice our beliefs. This freedom is important to ensure people feel a personal tie to their heritage.

To be able to share in these life experiences without discrimination is also an opportunity for all. By celebrating with others, things that were once strange can bring people closer together and foster respect and understanding. This is why having special observances is important and an essential practice of our Air Force.

So if you have an opportunity to join in an observance of Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa, take advantage of it.

Deadly duo — drinking and driving.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

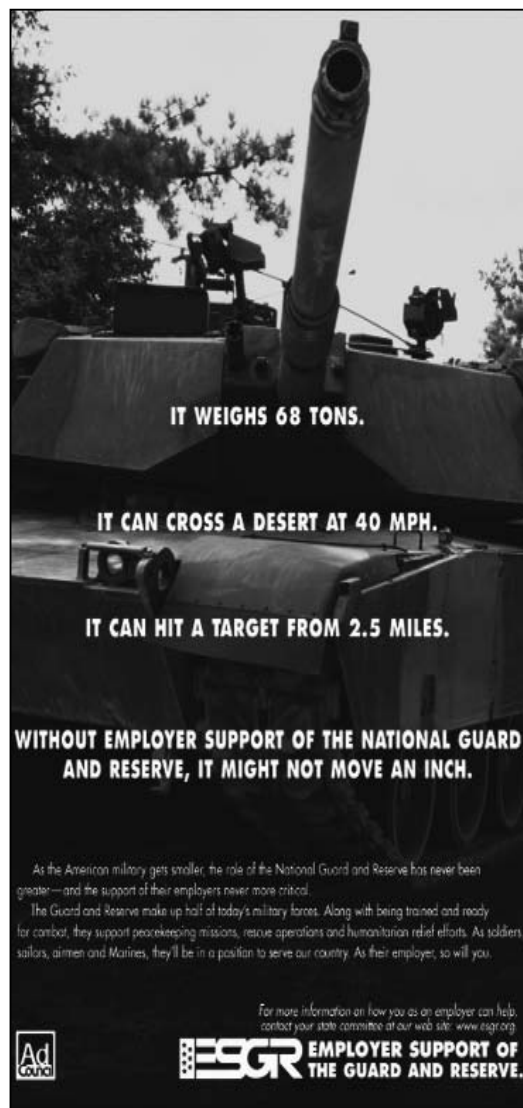
By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.



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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Some students remain during holiday hiatus

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

As 1,962 non-prior service students leave Keesler for the 81st Training Group's holiday hiatus, about 125 non-prior service trainees remain on base, according to Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Cavanaugh, military training superintendent.

Classes ended Wednesday, and the exodus begins today. Students must return to Keesler by 6 p.m. Jan. 3 to resume training Jan. 4.

There are several reasons why students remain at Keesler during the holidays.

"Some don't want to use the leave now and would rather save it for when they make a permanent change of station move after graduation," Sergeant Cavanaugh explained.

"Some can't afford to travel home because of the distance and expense," he continued. "There are a few pending disciplinary action, and the commander won't permit them to leave."

Trainees are consolidated into one dormitory during the holiday period.

"In addition to ensuring the security and cleanliness of the dormitory, Airmen continue to perform reconstitution details with civil engineering and humanitarian relief missions off-base," Sergeant Cavanaugh said. "Services will plan some things for the Airmen that remain behind. It may include a shopping trip or other things. The Fishbowl staff and the military training flights are planning activities as well."

Col. Deborah Van De Ven, 81st TRG commander, said some of the group's personnel are inviting students to join their families for Christmas dinners.

Others are working during the training break to support and care for the trainees that remain on base.

"We're encouraging liberal leave and mini-



To donate treats
for trainees to enjoy
during the holidays,
call Sergeant Cavanaugh,
377-3444.

num manning while ensuring leadership and support is sufficient," the colonel remarked. "Many instructors and staff members will have 'homework' over the holidays, especially with getting even more classes up and running starting in January."

One of the projects Colonel Van De Ven hoped to undertake before the students return was to move the 81st TRG staff back to Garrard Hall from its post-Katrina quarters in the Vosler Building.

The colonel said that Garrard Hall's roof repairs had been completed, but some leaks had developed after last week's heavy rains.

"We're not quite there yet — we don't want to make the move until the building is ready for us," she said.

Target



for elimination,
call Keesler's hotline 377-7053

E-mail is a privilege
— don't abuse it!

Coming soon: Joint PME for enlisted personnel

By Tech. Sgt. Sean Houlihan

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON — The enlisted force now has the same opportunity as the officer corps to receive joint professional military education throughout their careers.

"Senior leadership across the (defense) department and services know the backbone of the military is the enlisted corps, and they must be properly educated in the joint environment for the nation to be successful," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. William Joseph Gainey.

The command sergeant major is the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Senior leaders rely on the senior enlisted leadership to take care of enlisted service members," he said. "Enlisted joint PME is a priority for all leaders that needs to be done now, because waiting isn't an option."

Command Sergeant Major Gainey said joint enlisted training it's directly tied to Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace's second-priority transformation of the force, and the priorities of the combatant commands' and the services' senior enlisted advisors.

The policy calls for the services to incorporate joint topics into their exist-

ing enlisted professional military education programs, and also establishes two chairman-sponsored joint PME programs for enlisted service members assigned or slated for joint billets.

"While not mandated by law, as is the case for officers, this policy is a recognition that operating in joint, interagency, multinational and coalition warfighting organizations and staffs requires that joint learning objectives must be made available to all enlisted personnel," said Army Col. Lawrence Smith, chief of the Joint Education Branch at J-7 Operational Plans and Joint Force Development at the Joint Staff.

The colonel said the Joint Staff, services and combatant commands have been working on this policy for more than two years. The aim is to ensure the policy put into place helps the armed forces continually transform to meet the uncertain future and the unfolding challenges of the 21st century.

He said the goal is to expand future senior enlisted leaders' knowledge of individual, service and joint core competencies, while broadening their understanding of the uncertain strategic and operational requirements.

"Senior enlisted leaders of the future must be well versed in both the art and science of joint operations," he said.

He noted that a "joint" context will be embedded into existing PME courses for all the services.

Smith said the working group had to look at the existing PME programs and break them into logical educational levels:

Introductory, for E-1 through E-3.

Primary, for E-4 through E-6.

Intermediate, for E-7 (E-6 for the Marine Corps).

Senior, for E-8 and E-9.

Executive, for E-9 command senior enlisted leaders serving as SEL slots in general- or flag-officer-led organizations.

Then the group incorporated relevant joint topics into the respective systems to develop future leaders. The consensus was to include two educational levels that span an enlisted member's career and apply to all. A third educational level applies to senior enlisted members assigned to joint billets.

The first phase addresses progressive guidelines for completion by E-6s. Learning areas include national military capabilities and organization, and an armed forces overview. Knowledge is acquired through formal schooling, job aids, promotion guides and Web-based courses.

Career enlisted joint PME for E-7s

and above, or E-6s and above in the Marine Corps, build on the basic skills and incorporate foundations of joint operations and a national security overview.

Senior enlisted joint PME has two chairman-sponsored, assignment-oriented educational opportunities beginning with the senior enlisted leaders.

The first is a senior enlisted joint PME stand-alone Web-based course for those slated to serve or currently serving in joint organizations. This education consists of the same learning areas as the career enlisted joint PME, but provides more in-depth learning objectives applicable to serving in a joint organization and environment.

The second tier of the senior enlisted joint PME course is the Keystone course that prepares command-level SELs for service in a flag- or general-officer joint headquarters. Keystone emphasizes national military capabilities and organization, joint doctrine, service, joint, interagency and multinational capabilities, and defense acquisition and resourcing.

The first Keystone course is scheduled for February at the National Defense University, with a stint at the U.S. Joint Forces Command Joint Warfighting Center in Suffolk, Va.

Online course

Covers air mobility deployment issues

By Capt. Tom Freeland

Air Mobility Warfare Center Operations School

FORT DIX, N.J. — Ever wonder how wartime planners decide the best ways to organize and deploy air mobility forces and assets?

Get the answers from the Air Mobility Warfare Center's Mobility Operations School's interactive distance-learning introduction to air mobility operations course here. The Web site is http://www.amwc.af.mil/student_info.asp.

Comments from course critiques have been full of praise for both course content and software design, school officials said.

"This was the best designed online course I have taken," said Capt. Cliff Cunningham, 452nd Airlift Control Flight at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. "Good job on providing ample cross-references within the course to improve the explanation of information."

Capt. Michael Holdcroft, a C-5 Galaxy pilot with the 436th Operations Support Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, Del., said, "It was a great course. I really liked the 'outside the box' ways of quizzing and teaching the objectives."

Course planners estimate it takes roughly eight hours to complete the course.

Open to active, Reserve and civilian Department of Defense members of all ranks, it's designed for new to mature mid-level Air Mobility Command and U.S. Transportation Command leaders. Interested users can browse the course for valuable information or officially complete it by going through all the modules and passing the end-of-course assessment.

Military members and authorized contractors deployed or stationed overseas can use the online course for refresher or initial training.

Knowledge checks along the way help reinforce the recently taught information before the final assessment, which requires a 70 percent score to graduate and receive the course certificate.

The course is offered five times a year and graduates approximately 200 students annually.

For more information, call the school at DSN 650-7722 or commercial 1-609-754-7722 or 7722, or e-mail AMWCdistancelearning@mcguire.af.mil.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Embry-Riddle

Registration for the Embry-Riddle University spring term is under way.

Classes begin Jan. 9.

Fields of study include financial accounting, marketing, international business and air transportation.

For more information or to register, call 377-4271, or visit Room 210, old Cody Hall.

Grants increase

General Henry H. Arnold Education Grants have been increased to \$2,000 by the Air Force Aid Society.

Children of active duty, retirees, Title 10 reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 performing full-time active duty and deceased Air Force members are eligible to apply. Spouses of active duty, Title 10 reservists residing and attending school in the continental United States and widows and widowers of active duty and retirees.

Applications are available at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall. The application deadline is March 10.

Testing resumes

Testing has resumed for all programs administered by the education office.

Make appointments in Room 212, old Cody Hall or call 377-2323 or 2171.

Testing is in Room 118, Airman Leadership School, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees at Keesler.

Courses must be mission (job) related and through accredited schools.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, to create My-AFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

With the tools, people can request Community College of the Air Force transcripts,

track receipt of civilian transcripts, view degree progress reports and check if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

Physician assistants

Phase I physician assistant training classes begin in January, April and August 2007.

Completed applications must be sent by military personnel flights and arrive by Jan. 27 at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729.

For more information, call the military personnel flight or education office or visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/medical/BSC/Education/PAapplication.htm>.

Virtual education

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has been transferred to the Air Force Portal.

To access AFVEC, use the AFVEC URL, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, or go directly to the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod/>. Use your Air Force Portal user identification and password to log on.

First-time users are prompted to re-register some of their profile information and then are taken directly into their AFVEC profile.

Troops to Teachers

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call Chris Carey, 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

Officer records

For officers to update their academic records, the Air Force Institute of Technology requires an official transcript sent to this address:

AFIT/RRE, 2950 P St., Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>, or through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New My AFVEC users are required to create an account.

Upon registration, select the "Request TA" option. A PowerPoint tutorial in this section provides instructions on processing online applications.

It's important to know and enter basic course registration information in the request.

Enlisted-to-AFIT

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Institute of Technology offers noncommissioned officers a chance to earn an advanced science, engineering or management degree.

These onsite AFIT programs are available at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

For more information, visit <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec/> or e-mail robert.hale@pentagon.af.mil.

Bypass testing

Up to 30 hours of college bypass testing credit can be used to complete a 64-hour Community College of the Air Force degree.

For more information, call 377-0090.

GI Bill benefits

Montgomery GI Bill benefits may be used in conjunction with tuition assistance.

Tuition assistance covers 100 percent of tuition and fees.

For more information, call the education office, 377-7059.

LOAC training

Military personnel are required to satisfactorily complete Law of Armed Conflict training every 15 months.

Online training is at <http://development/81trss/ancillary/training.htm>, and click on the flash or text versions of the training. The system asks for your first and last names, rank, organization and office symbol.

After reviewing the material, take a 10-question quiz. A score of 70 is required. After training, print a dated certificate. Keep a copy and give one to your unit deployment manager, who notifies the legal office.

USM degree

The University of Southern Mississippi-Keesler offers a degree in technical occupational education.

For more information, call 377-2309.

NEWS AND FEATURES

New BAH reflects elimination of geographic rate protection

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Starting in January, the Air Force and the other military services eliminate geographic rate protection for the basic allowance for housing.

Over the last five years, geographic rate protection meant BAH rates around military communities could never drop, even when estimates for median housing costs in an area suggested they should.

Under the current system, new arrivals at an installation would receive the protected BAH rate, even if housing rates in the area had dropped and adequate housing was available for them at a lower cost.

Budget-conscious plan

Beginning next year, BAH rates fluctuate yearly based on housing cost estimates made from data collected regionally by military housing offices. The budget-conscious move by the Department of Defense is designed to save money at a time when resources are tight.

Under the new system, people who remain in an area never see a lowering of their individual BAH rate.

Individual rate protection is designed to protect Airmen when the median housing rates in an area drop, but landlords don't lower rents to match them.

Providing ample funding

Individual rate protection ensures Airmen always receive ample funding to remain in the homes they've established, and at the same time provides DOD a common-sense way to fund that allowance.

But the policy creates situations where two military members of the same rank and dependent status may receive different BAH rates. Individual rate protection allows in-place members to keep their BAH rate for a region while BAH rates in the

For more information

Visit <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem>.

E-mail BAH.hotline@pentagon.af.mil.

area may fall, so a newcomer can get the same quality of housing at a lower cost.

"When you signed your lease, you were locked into a rate in a housing market that had a higher cost, on average," said Capt. Charles Parada, chief of the Air Force's basic allowance for housing program. "But a newcomer could face a lower-cost market."

Fairness in the formula

"The new BAH program will always allow you to afford adequate housing for your grade and dependency status in the current market," he said.

Captain Parada also said all members in a region are entitled to increases in the BAH rate as they occur.

Other changes in 2006

Two other BAH changes for 2006 are:

Elimination of the BAH differential for members living off base.

Change to in-transit BAH rates for new Airmen.

"What members will be paid now is a BAH rate with dependents, versus the BAH differential," Captain Parada said. "In most cases, the new rate will be an increase for members, though in some areas it may be lower."

The BAH differential is a flat rate, based on grade, paid to members who are paying court-ordered child support.

In 2006, the differential no longer exists for members residing off base. Instead, they receive the BAH with-dependents rate, even if they have no dependents in their home. Because the BAH with-dependents rate fluctuates region to region, some members in low-cost housing markets may receive less

money than they had with the flat-rate BAH differential.

Overseas housing

The BAH differential rate is also eliminated outside the United States. Members receive an overseas housing allowance instead of the state-side BAH. Like in the United States, with the elimination of the BAH differential, members overseas residing off base begin receiving the OHA with-dependent rate. Overseas members don't always receive the full OHA. Instead, they receive only that amount they spend on rent.

Under the new plan for BAH differential, members entitled to the differential continue to receive it if they live in government quarters.

A final change to military BAH policy involves new military members traveling from their initial training location to their first duty station.

New Airmen on move

When new accessions to the Air Force travel from their initial training location to their first duty station, they are said to be "in transit." Most new Airmen who are single receive the BAH II rate. Like the BAH differential, BAH II is a flat rate, tied only to a member's rank.

Today, almost all new unaccompanied Airmen receive the BAH II rate as they travel to their first duty station. That group of Airmen includes non-prior service officer training school graduates and basic trainees. The exception is Airmen graduating from the Air Force Academy. Those new officers received the full BAH rate based on housing costs in Colorado Springs, Colo., the location of the school.

IN THE NEWS

Phantom Street repairs

Phantom Street is closed to through traffic for repairs, Tuesday through Jan. 8.

Parking lot entrances remain accessible.

For more information, call Don Ruth, 377-5855.

New commissary hours

Starting Jan. 2, hours for the Keesler Commissary are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Extended deployment volunteers

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Hundreds of Airmen are needed for one-year extended deployments to fill critical positions in the global war on terrorism.

Officer and enlisted Airmen in almost every major career field are needed for U.S. Central Command joint task force positions with report dates throughout calendar year 2006.

If there aren't enough volunteers, Air Force Personnel Center officials identify the most eligible non-volunteers.

For more details and a list of frequently asked questions, log on to the AFPC Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas/extendedTDYs/extendedtdy.htm> or call DSN 665-4273.

4 receive Sijan leadership awards

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Four Airmen have been recognized with 2005 Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Awards.

The annual awards recognize Airmen who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities while assigned to organizations at the wing level or below.

Recipients are:

Senior officer — Lt. Col. Gerald Ven Dange, Defense Contract Management Agency West, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Junior officer — Capt. William Dains, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Senior enlisted — Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Junior enlisted — Senior Airman Grailin Blamer, Fort Lewis, Wash.

The award was first given in 1981 in honor of the first Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor. Captain Sijan was shot down over Vietnam on Nov. 9, 1967, and evaded capture for 45 days despite severe injuries. After being captured, he overpowered a guard and crawled into the jungle, but was recaptured. He died while in a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp. He was presented the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroism.

Last Keesler News of 2005

Today's Keesler News is the last issue of 2005.

By contract, the base newspaper doesn't publish the weeks in which the Christmas and New Year's holidays fall.

The first issue of 2006 is published Jan. 12.

The newspaper office is minimally staffed on work days between Monday and Dec. 30 and Jan. 2-6.

Gould,

from Page 1

"I also want to ensure we, as Headquarters 2nd Air Force, are doing what we can do to help instructors accomplish the mission of taking raw troops and turning them into expeditionary Airmen."

It was by choice that Sheppard was General Gould's first base to visit as 2nd Air Force commander, he said.

"Coming to Sheppard gives me a pretty broad view of specialties I've worked with over my career," he said of his Dec. 13-15 visit. "This was a logical place to start."

One of the things that

caught the general's eye was the amount of enthusiasm instructors have shown when teaching and the enthusiasm Airmen have for learning.

"The cadre is so fired up," he said. "I haven't met an instructor or commander that doesn't like their job. It's neat to see that kind of enthusiasm."

As the top manager of all operational aspects of nearly 5,000 active training courses taught to approximately 250,000 Airmen annually in technical training, basic military training, medical and distance learning courses, General Gould said he's well aware of the increased deployment frequency. That's why a premium has to be placed on producing Airmen who have

more than one specialty.

He said Airmen are already asked to do more than what their primary Air Force Specialty Code requires. For example, he said communications Airmen are asked to work security details in the Middle East.

General Gould said over the next several years, the Air Force could see a consolidation of AFSCs.

"We will have Airmen with multiple skills," he said. "We will accomplish more with more rather than more with less."

The general is no stranger to the training side of the Air Force. He served as a graduate assistant football coach at the Air Force Academy before his flying days, as well as an

instructor pilot. He also performed standard evaluations as part of an Air Training Command team, including an inspection at the 80th Flying Training Wing during his tenure.

With a master's degree in human resource development, it makes sense the general's focus would be on people. He's seen products of Sheppard and AETC in the field, but now he gets a different view.

"What I want to do on these base visits is understand the complexities of training and the challenges," he said. "I also want to provide support from 2nd Air Force to give my people resources to do this mission."



Mr. Morgan

Dominator retires after 37 years

By Senior Airmen Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Stanley Morgan, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron's maintenance mechanic supervisor, retired Dec. 15 with 37 years of federal service.

During Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Morgan drove a huge vacuum truck, the "Dominator," as part of a team that restored the base's water system and rescued two steam plant operators trapped by storm surge waters.

Katrina was Mr. Morgan's fourth major hurricane while employed at Keesler.

He was a carpenter during Frederic in 1979; a power production and support system mechanic during Elena in 1985, and was promoted to electrical systems supervisor right before Georges ravaged Keesler in 1998.

Mr. Morgan was promoted to his last position May 2001, in which he directed electrical technicians and power production operators.

His other positions include janitor, carpenter's helper, high voltage electrician, electrical leadman and base infrastructure manager.

Mr. Morgan was recognized throughout his career with numerous awards including 21 superior performance awards.

Mr. Morgan is now a construction manager contractor at Keesler's Program Management Office, where he oversees Katrina repair projects.

Stevens,

from Page 1

lunchtime Dec. 12. They served turkey, ham, all the trimmings and a remarkable assortment of desserts to the staff, which has no other source of food in the medical center. Katrina's storm surge swept through the basement and destroyed the dining facility, among other major damage.

"It was the least we could do," Barbara said. "Just the look on people's faces was worth it."

She wanted to thank a number of people for helping her with the effort:

"Richard Eubanks (Semmes, Ala., Wal-Mart manager) donated \$100 worth of paper goods, 12 bags of ice and 10

percent of the merchandise purchased. Ben and Ashley Jackson provided brownies. Bonnie Jackson donated \$50 and Wanda Jackson \$30. Jeri Newell donated a pan of dressing and Eva Lyles two large cakes. Brandy and Mike Snider gave two platters of cole slaw. My wonderful sister Judy Hilton cooked an awful lot of the food and delivered it to my home. She also bought some of the things I needed. Dr. Eric Johnson of Providence Hospital, provided turkey.

"My husband Robert was very understanding about all the money, time, help and having to serve as a sounding board for ideas to transport the food," she added.

Barbara also thanked Maj. John Hampton and Charles Whittington, medical center security, for assisting her to get the food into the facility and set it up for the staff.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

The Stevens look on as Airman 1st Class Jessica Rowe, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, helps herself to the meal.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Income tax information

Five-year tax information is available through myPay for active-duty military by Jan. 19 and hard-copy W-2s mailed by Jan. 27, according to finance officials.

To ensure all service members receive W-2s this year, members aren't authorized to change their delivery method from an electronic copy to a hard copy during December and January.

Service members are urged to review their leave and earnings statements and make changes by filling out W-4s on myPay at their computers or self-help terminals in the finance office.

Those who claim exempt are required to complete new W-4s by Feb. 15 or the Defense Joint Military Pay System automatically converts them to single and zero exemptions.

W-5s for earned income credit advance payment certificate expire Dec. 31. To apply for 2006 advances, fill out another W-5. Changes for 2006:

Effective Dec. 31, Turkey is no longer a combat zone tax exclusion location.

As of Jan. 1, Ohio is no longer a state tax exempted if you live outside of the state.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Jeff Smith, 377-7251, or Master Sgt. Eileen Boles, 377-3845, or visit <http://www.irs.gov>.

Online personnel accounts

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER — Air Force reservists can now go online to create an account on the Reserve Personnel Center's Virtual Personnel Center-Guard/Reserve portal.

The portal on the personnel center's Web site allows reservists to access virtual personnel services and enhances the traditional "vMPF" tools with which many Airmen are already familiar.

Service is available around the clock year round and lets Airmen conduct a variety of personnel transactions from anywhere in the world with Internet connections.

To create an account, go to <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/newaccount.asp>.

Fill out the electronic form, including Social Security number and date of birth, include a valid e-mail address and phone number. The e-mail address is used for service delivery and password management. People with no e-mail address can establish one at <http://www.gimail.af.mil/login.asp>.

Automated letters for reservists

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER — The Air Reserve Personnel Center set another transformation milestone with the self-service automation of the reissue of 20-year and mortgage letters.

The letters are now available via the Virtual Personnel Center Guard/Reserve portal.

The original 20-year notification letter is issued approximately 120 days after the end of the retention/retirement year at the 20-year mark for Guard and Reserve Airmen. Once the data system reflects 20 years of satisfactory service, it issues the notification letter.

The new automated process enables retirees to replace misplaced 20-year letters automatically by visiting the Web site at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support.asp>.

The personnel center has also automated the mortgage letter, which assists reservists with information regarding their retired pay benefits for mortgage applications.

Reservists in the process of purchasing a new home may go online to <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support.asp>, sign in and print out a verification of the amount of gross retired pay they'll receive.

Medical center's appointment line up, running

81st Medical Group

Tricare Prime beneficiaries may call 1-800-700-8603 to book appointments at Keesler Medical Center and leave telephone consults for their primary care managers or request authorizations for any non-emergency services.

The medical center doesn't have the capability to accept "space-available" Tricare Standard and Extra beneficiaries.

The appointment line is open for all beneficiaries 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. Active-duty personnel may begin calling at 5 a.m. Monday-Friday.

To access care on the first floor of the medical center, enter through the "A Tower" at the top of the steps leading from Fisher Street. Signs directing patients to the respective clinics are posted along the route from the entrance to the clinic areas. The security staff is also available to provide directions.

Clinic hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays. The family practice, internal medicine and pediatric clinics see patients 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

The family practice staff, in the former medical specialties clinic, sees acute uncomplicated illnesses, handles personal health assessments and provides medication refills. Urgicare and walk-in services aren't available. A case management and social worker are available.

The clinical laboratory is in its medical center location. The lab's phlebotomy station is open in the main lab and routine blood testing is provided for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

The blood donor center is open. To arrange to donate blood, call 377-9324.

Radiology is back in its previous location. Provided are routine radiographs, computerized tomography and ultrasounds for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

The immunization clinic in the former urology clinic provides all inoculations to active duty, retirees and dependents. Flu shots are available, but allergy services aren't.

The temporary pharmacy is in the medical photo/oral surgery area. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For remaining refills from on-base prescriptions, call 377-6360. Pick up refills about four duty days later at the temporary pharmacy distribution area in Building

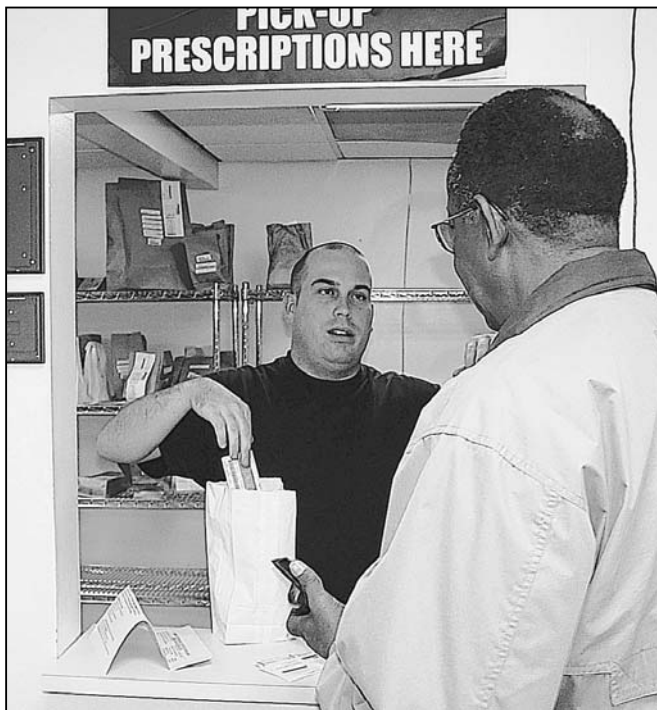


Photo by Steve Pivnick

Senior Airman Thomas Vaghy, 81st Medical Support Squadron, hands a patient his prescription in the pharmacy's temporary location next door to the former oral surgery clinic on the the first floor of the medical center.

5 of the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Veterans Boulevard, just off Pass Road. To renew prescriptions, see your primary care manager or another Tricare network provider. The pharmacy is unable to fill prescriptions from off-base providers.

The first aid station is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. Ambulance coverage for Keesler is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the on-base 911 line. Patients are taken directly to off-base medical facilities. For emergencies, go to the nearest coast emergency room. Active-duty sick call at the first aid station is scheduled through the central appointment line. The first aid station treats Only new acute health care problems.

Internal medicine on the first floor sees active-duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Services are acute medical care, limited evaluation and treatment of chronic medical illnesses, medical consultation and referral for select subspecialty services.

The optometry clinic is on the

first floor within the internal medicine clinic area. The staff sees active duty patients only. All exams are by appointment only through the Tricare appointment line, 1-800-700-8603. The clinic can order spectacles and gas mask inserts for active duty and eligible retirees provided they have a current prescription (within two years).

The pediatric clinic in the former oncology/hematology clinic area provides scheduled acute medical care for children, well baby/child visits, routine appointments, Q Code exams, and exceptional family member program and special needs family paperwork. For appointments, use the Tricare appointment line. A child psychologist and social worker are available. Appointments are by PCM referral.

Women's health in the former general surgery clinic, next to the new flight medicine clinic, provides routine women's health care to active duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Other patients are seen on a space-available basis. Services are general gynecological problems, annual (Pap smear) exams, birth control

and follow-up of abnormal Paps (dysplasia). No obstetrical services are available. The clinic can initiate profiles for pregnant active-duty patients. Eligible patients call 377-6920 for appointments for routine annual exams. Call the appointment line for all others.

Flight medicine in the surgical specialties clinic furnishes walk-in acute care, duties-not-involved-in-flying paperwork, profiles and physical health assessments. Call 377-6668.

General surgery and orthopedics share the former orthopedic clinic. Surgery is available by primary care manager consult only.

Medical records are in the Wylie Auditorium. Original records are maintained by the medical center. For copies, complete a request form at the outpatient record's customer service desk. Allow five to seven days for copies.

Endocrine services are available by appointment only in the internal medicine clinic. Call 377-6665 or the Tricare appointment line.

New dermatology patients are seen by referral only. Established patients may be seen by calling 377-1673 or the appointment line.

Mental health flight elements — life skills, family advocacy/exceptional family member program and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment — services are in Suites H and J in the dental clinic. Patients may use the entrance at the west end of the building. Call 377-7006 or 6216.

The Triangle clinic, Levitow Training Support Facility, sees only non-prior service students.

Services at the dental clinic include routine care, cleanings and routine outpatient oral surgery for active-duty members only. Dental emergencies for all patients are seen through dental sick call. Call 377-4510 for appointments.

Physical and occupational therapy see patients at the health and wellness center. Physical therapy sees active duty only; occupational therapy sees active duty, retirees and adult dependents. Services include assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders such as upper and lower extremity dysfunction and neck and back pain. Treatment is limited to gym and home exercise programs, heat, ice and ultrasound modalities. Call 377-1886 for physical therapy and 377-6264 for occupational therapy.

For the director of customer relations, call 377-9498.

Operation Dragon Comeback

Coins, patches raise funds for base relief efforts

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund is getting a boost from the sale of Operation Dragon Comeback coins and patches.

Operation Dragon Comeback is the official name for Keesler's recovery, restoration and humanitarian efforts in the aftermath of the Aug. 29 storm. The name was submitted by Master Sgt. Terrence Scott, a firefighter with the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, in a contest soon after the storm.

Inspired by Team Keesler's response to the challenge, Lt. Col. Dale King, 81st Training Support Squadron commander, suggested a coin and patch to raise money to assist hurricane survivors.

Senior Airman Carlos Moreno, an artist in the squadron's training development flight, created a design that reflects the operation, the base and the surrounding community.

The coin's front side consists of a dragon that symbolizes the 81st Training Wing, a lighthouse that represents the Mississippi Gulf Coast and "Katrina 2005" emblazoned within the international symbol for a hurricane.

The reverse side depicts an eagle, representing the Air Force, soaring over a map of Mississippi, with Keesler's location marked by a star.

The patch features the same design as the front of the coin.

Tech. Sgts. Eric Alvarez and Anthony Bellocq have managed sales for the squadron's booster club. The initial supply of 300 patches and 500 coins sold within three days, so more have been ordered.

As the response grew, Chief Master Sgt. Aliquippa Allen, 81st TRW command chief, suggested the wing take over the project. Sergeants Alvarez and Bellocq continue as project managers when the 81st TRW assumes sponsorship in January, assisted by group and unit representatives.

Coins sell for \$7 and patches for \$5. All proceeds after expenses benefit the Katrina relief fund.

After Jan. 15, units that don't have a point of contact may place e-mail orders with Sergeants Alvarez and Bellocq.

Here's a list of other assistance sources.

Air Force Aid Society

Hurricane Katrina assistance requests are accepted at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall.

Air Force active-duty members,



Photo by Kemberly Groue

The designs of the coin and patch reflect the recovery of the base and the surrounding community from Hurricane Katrina.

retirees, widows of Air Force retirees, and Army retirees and their widows must complete the entire application and provide supporting documentation.

Checks are written to the person or company providing the repair or service. Requests are decided on a case-by-case basis, and the customer is asked to provide supporting documentation, such as written estimates for tree removal, home repairs and proof of insurance deductibles.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is waiving interest and suspending monthly payments for an unspecified period to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Credit limit increases of up to \$500 are offered on accounts in good standing.

For more information or to update contact information, call 1-877-991-7827 or visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

BAH

Base housing residents who received basic assistance for housing after Hurricane Katrina and have returned to a habitable unit need to stop by the base housing office in Chapel One east of the dental clinic to stop their BAH.

Residents should check their leave and earnings statements to verify they aren't receiving BAH anymore.

Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call Sheila Noel, 377-7973, or go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency.shtml>.

Civilian employees and their families are eligible for six free post-hurricane counseling sessions.

For more information, call Larry Williams, 377-4638.

Civilian employees may donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane.

Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be given to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Diploma replacement

To replace Community College of the Air Force or professional military education diplomas lost or damaged due to the hurricane, call the education office, 377-2171.

Extended child care

Military and civilians who are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

Government travel card

The government travel card is for official travel expenses while in a travel status.

Dependents aren't authorized to use their members' card. They can get advances at the nearest base to the "safe haven" location. If there's no base nearby, work through the finance office at Keesler for advances or accruals.

The 90-day grace period for pay-

ment of GTC accounts began Sept. 23.

People who used GTCs for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for credit.

Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

Income tax relief

For information about the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, call the Internal Revenue Service, 1-866-562-5227 or visit the agency's Web site, <http://www.irs.gov>.

Katrina relief fund

The Keesler Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund a central location for money donated by other bases and sources.

To apply for assistance, visit Keesler's secure Web site, <https://www.mil.keesler.af.mil> and click on the red Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund icon on the right side of the screen. The brief application asks for personal contact information, rank, unit and an assessment of personal loss and insurance coverage.

All military and civilian members should complete the form, whether they want to receive financial donations or not, because responses will be used as historical data to determine the actual number of Keesler people who had losses and the extent of their losses.

For more information, call Maj. Teresa Roberts or Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2179.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348. Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

Safe haven extension

The recent extension to the safe haven per diem rates payable to uniformed members' dependents now covers Keesler families for 120 days, or through Monday.

Please see **Aid**, Page 13

Aid,

from Page 12

Reimbursement rates are 100 percent for dependents 12 and older and 50 percent for those under 12.

Lodging receipts are required for safe haven per diem reimbursement.

Reimbursement for lodging is limited to the actual cost not to exceed the authorized amount.

Receipts aren't required for the meals and incidentals expense that's reimbursed as a flat amount.

SGLI

The Defense Department extended the deadline for reducing or declining increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for service members affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Sept. 1, eligible members were automatically insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI, which continues under previously existing elections.

Those who wish to keep the

\$400,000 coverage with the same beneficiary designations don't need to take any action. To decline or reduce coverage, members must complete a new SGLV 8286 at <http://www.insurance.va.gov> indicating the amount of coverage desired.

SBA

The Small Business Administration is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations that received hurricane damage.

For more information, call 1-800-659-2955, email questions to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visit the Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>.

Uniform replacement

The 81st Supply Squadron is issuing battle dress uniform items to replace those damaged or worn out during post-Katrina recovery operations.

They're issued 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 to 2 p.m. working Fridays in Room 125B, Taylor Logistics Building.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Captain Gentry, left, and Lieutenant Kline pass gifts to Chief Master Sgt. Bob Madigan, 81st Medical Support Squadron, for Ayalah Anderson, 4-month-old daughter of Airman 1st Class Tekiyah Anderson, 81st Medical Group, and Master of Arms 3rd Class Defoster Anderson, Naval Station Pascagoula.

Muscles on the move



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Airmen Basic David Spivey, left, and Justin Walton move furniture back into the Ocean Springs home of Col. Timothy Halligan, 81st Dental Squadron, Dec. 12 after hurricane repairs were made. They're students in the 336th Training Squadron.

Hurlburt Field's Angel Tree yields gifts for Keesler kids

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler "angels" are receiving some special Christmas gifts this year, thanks to the generosity of Hurlburt Field, Fla.

More than \$6,000 worth of toys and other items were delivered to Keesler Dec. 13 by Capt. Christine Gentry and 2nd Lt. Eric Kline from the Hurlburt Company Grade Officers Council and Master Sgt. Inez Reyes from the Hurlburt First Sergeants Council.

"Each year, the CGOC solicits our first sergeants to identify families in the Hurlburt Field community who might need a little extra help during the holidays," Capt. Gentry explained. "We put up a tree in the base exchange, create angels for the tree, receive and log in the gifts, get them wrapped the gifts and distribute them to the first sergeants."

During this year's planning stage, Sergeant Reyes asked the CGOC to consider adding Keesler's families to the program because of the losses sustained during Hurricane Katrina.

Master Sgt. Alan Lis from Keesler's First Sergeants Council provided the names of 102 children who could ben-

efit from the program. The Hurlburt CGOC added those names to the 215 Hurlburt angels on the tree.

"We were originally concerned about having twice as many angels as previous years, but all 317 angels were adopted," Captain Gentry said. "Altogether, we received about \$17,000 worth of gifts and donations for Keesler and Hurlburt children."

"We're very fortunate to have such a generous and giving community at Hurlburt Field," she continued. "They didn't hesitate when we added the additional angels from Keesler. We had individuals, families, squadron booster clubs, private base organizations and even children who adopted angels this year."

Hurlburt's 505th Command and Control Wing gave \$1,000 to buy Angel Tree gifts for children from both bases, in addition to other holiday philanthropy.

"We had burger burns where people were donating \$200 for a burger," Master Sgt. Mike Strickland pointed out. "We're a small wing, but we have a lot of big hearts."

Senior Airman Heidi Davis, 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this report.



Mr. Oldham, left, and Mr. Johnson, Mississippi State University, separate soil samples behind the old base exchange Dec. 13.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Scientists research Keesler soil to prepare for spring replanting

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Two scientists from Mississippi State University began a soils research project at Keesler Dec. 13.

The research is intended to help the base mitigate the damage done to soils by Hurricane Katrina, according to Michael Ehrlich, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron landscape architect.

Most of the base was inundated with a mixture of salt water, chemical and biological pollutants and sludge from the bottom of the Back Bay of Biloxi. Restoring the chemical balance in the soils is a critical first step in restoring the base landscape, Mr. Ehrlich said.

"The MSU scientists will collect and test soil samples from key locations on base," he explained. "The results of the tests allow the scientists to formulate a plan that we can use to prepare the soil for replanting next spring."

Mr. Ehrlich estimated that it will cost several million dollars in labor and materials to restore the constructed landscape and open "green areas."

"We know that the storm water had substances that are very damaging to plants," he said. "The salt content in hur-

ricane-flooded soil is much higher than normal and this alone is extremely damaging to plants if left untreated."

Larry Oldham, associate extension agronomist-soils, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at MSU, said the project was several weeks in the making.

"Michael contacted Kerry (Johnson, a Harrison County area extension service agent for horticulture) about coming out here, and Kerry contacted me," he said.

Mr. Oldham has a doctorate in soil science and is an expert in agronomy and horticulture.

"Horticulture is the science of growing or gardening plants," he said. "In this case, we will be using horticultural practices for lawns in small land areas that require intensive care and repair. We will test the soil for electric conductivity, which is an indicator of salt conditions in the soil. Plants need nutrients to survive and salt absorbs nutrients in soil. The more salt in the soil, the worse off plants will be."

Mr. Ehrlich said restoring the grounds on Keesler isn't just a matter of taking the old plants out of the soil and putting in new ones.

"We have to be sure the soil chemistry and soil texture are

right for plant growth before we can start replanting," he said. "The researchers are well qualified in this area, so we'll rely on their recommendations to ensue success."

Mr. Oldham and Mr. Johnson took samples from several different areas, including the grounds around the commissary and base exchange, both of which suffered enough damage to force the base to abandon their pre-storm locations and set up temporary operations elsewhere.

"We want to see the concentration levels at different depths," said Mr. Johnson, who grew up near the base. "We're taking samples from 3, 6 and 9 inches into the ground at multiple sites."

Mr. Oldham said one of the reasons for testing the soil is to give an idea of the source of the water that flooded the base.

"If the water came from the (Mississippi) Sound, there is probably salt in the soil," he said. "If the water came from the Back Bay, we're not sure what will be in the soil."

"We're hoping to have (results) in mid-January," Mr. Oldham said. "We then want to come out here again sometime in the spring and again before the humidity kicks in."

Facilities update Airman's Attic reopens

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Keesler's Airman's Attic reopened Dec. 12 after sustaining moderate water damage from Hurricane Katrina.

The facility, located at 800/802 Rodenburg Avenue in Bay Ridge housing area, is open to airmen basic to staff sergeants, and makes an exception Airmen in need.

The hours of operation are 3-6 p.m. Fridays.

"The need is always great for furniture and appliances that are in good to excellent condition," said Senior Master Sgt. Marnice Anthony, 81st Medical Group. "New towels, linens and bath clothes are always in demand."

The attic doesn't need clothing for children or adults, but is accepting infant clothing in good condition.

Donations are accepted Fridays.

For more information call, 377-8528 or 324-3702.

Open base facilities are:

Dining facilities

Meals in all dining facilities are provided to military personnel with meal cards, those at Keesler on temporary duty orders and those normally authorized to eat in these facilities.

Civilians displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina are also authorized to use the dining facilities.

Spouses and dependent children of active duty E-1 through E-4 are allowed to eat in the dining facilities on Sundays.

Defense Department civilians assigned to Keesler are authorized to use the Pecan Dining Facility during each meal and Live Oak Dining Facility during breakfast and dinner meals Mondays-working Fridays.

Banking

BancorpSouth — bank lobby is now open during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday.

The drive-up automatic

teller machine is operational 24 hours a day, and the mini-mall ATM is also operating during business hours.

Keesler Federal Credit Union — open during regular banking hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, in the trailer located in the credit union's parking lot. ATMs on base are now operational 24 hours a day.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to help alleviate traffic due to the closure of Highway 90. Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Holiday hours

Holiday hours for base facilities are posted in the Digest section, Pages 28-29.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable. For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

PODs — If a portable-on demand-storage unit on base has leaks, call Ray Turner, 377-7201.

Moves

Area Defense Counsel — Keesler's office is now in Room 5703, Locker House. The office, an independent office of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions. For appointments, call 377-2429.

Contracting — now located in Room 101, old Cody Hall.

Education office — now located in Room 212, old Cody Hall. For assistance, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Please see **Facilities**, Page 15



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Liz Van Huffel, 81st Medical Support Squadron, looks through donated items in the Airman's Attic kitchen. The attic's hours of operation are 3-6 p.m. Fridays.

Facilities,

from Page 14

Family support center — now located on the first floor, old Cody Hall. A student office remains open in the Fishbowl.

In Chapel One, there's an annex with supplies for all ranks and base civilians including clothes, food, baby items and cleaning supplies. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

Finance — now located on the second floor, Vosler Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays. For military and

travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Legal office — aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. A claims briefing is 10 a.m. daily, with filing from 8 a.m. to noon. For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

Personal finances — The personal financial management program is now located in Room 119, old Cody Hall. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

Personnel offices — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian personnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

Retirees, annuitants — the retiree activities center has moved from Thrower Park to Room 104, old Cody Hall.

Traffic management office — TMO for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377- 0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO has returned to Sablich Center, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone numbers are inbound personal property, 377-7813; outbound counselors, 377-7815; outbound documentation, 377-2326; non-temporary storage, 377-7810; quality assurance, 377-2969; passenger travel, 377-2600; N&N Travel, 432-5825; TMO officer and administrative staff, 377-7825.

Post-Katrina relief operations bolster community recovery



Airman 1st Class Dunyaska Abercrombie, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, stacks blankets for hurricane victims from New York firefighters at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Ocean Springs Dec. 13.



Airmen Basic Brian Sanders, left, and Jessica Allen, 335th TRS, secure floor boards for a large tent to shelter relief workers at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Biloxi.

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler is at the tip of the sword in the battle to restore the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

After the storm devastated the base and surrounding communities Aug. 29, Keesler's training mission was broadened to include humanitarian relief operations under the direction of the chapel staff.

The base began documenting HUMRO efforts about three weeks after the hurricane. As of Monday, the database reflects:

291 total missions involving 10 or more people.

122,736 meals ready-to-eat issued.

187,660 pounds of food and clothing distributed.

239,227 gallons of water passed out.

20,256 man hours expended.

Those figures are probably a gross underestimation, according to Tech. Sgt. Julie Sargent, noncommissioned officer in charge of Keesler's HUMRO office.

"We're reworking our data base, but I suspect we've probably had three times the missions that we've been able to record," Sergeant Sargent explained. "Our figures don't count groups of less than 10 people, the time spent coordinating efforts with other relief organizations and some of the volunteer work our people are doing with church and civic groups outside the Keesler umbrella.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Bishop Chastain, left, 332nd Training Squadron, and Airmen Basic Melissa Ledezma and Armani Wilson, 336th TRS, prepare gifts from New Jersey schools at Dolan Hall. The training facility was used as a stag-

ing and distribution center for Coast Kids Christmas, Inc. Chastain's daughter, Courtney, is a founder and board member for the organization, which supplied presents for children at six area distribution sites.

Some squadrons have been doing relief work on their own, but haven't reported their efforts to us.

"But it's not about the politics or who gets credit — Keesler just wants to make sure that people who are suffering get the help they need," she emphasized.

Many of Keesler's humanitarian projects are conducted by first-term Airmen who've just arrived for training. The 81st Training Group tags new arrivals with a week of hurricane recovery work — half with the HUMRO office to work out in the community and half with the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron to assist with continuing debris removal and cleanup work around the base.

"These young Airmen are amazing — their attitudes are wonderful and their energy and enthusiasm are inspiring," Sergeant Sargent said. "It makes them proud to be able to make a difference in our stricken communities as part of the Air Force."

But the community outreach efforts extend far beyond the student population.

"It's neat to see colonels getting

their knuckles busted next to an airman basic," Sergeant Sargent observed.

Team Keesler has been assisting state and federal agencies, charitable organizations and city and county governments, helping out where needed and networking to get things done.

"Our mission has shifted as recovery efforts have progressed," Sergeant Sargent said. "We try to make our people available wherever the need exists."

"We can't use Airmen to clean out houses — because of mold and other hazards, they have to be volunteers, not 'volun-tolds,'" she continued. "But there are a lot of other jobs they can do. They're tackling yard and big debris cleanup, helping out at distribution centers, working at city and church centers and schools — unloading, cleaning, organizing, assembling furniture, whatever needs to be done."

HUMRO efforts range from small projects like assisting schools in reestablishing server connections to big jobs like debris removal and palletizing tons of relief supplies.

One of the base's first big projects was the cleanup of Biloxi's Hiller Park, which is edged by Keesler's Thrower Park and West Falcon Park military housing areas.

"As debris was cleared, the pulse of life returned," Sergeant Sargent recalled. "Kids came out to play and families came out to barbecue. It was a great feeling."

Team Keesler also undertook restoration projects to preserve two Jackson County historical sites — the Old Spanish Fort in Pascagoula and The Old House in Gautier.

Some HUMRO efforts have focused on Katrina's four-legged survivors, helping with abandoned pets and taking supplies to area animal shelters.

Even though it's been nearly four months since Katrina hit and much has been accomplished in many areas, Sergeant Sargent is deeply concerned about the tremendous amount of work that remains to be done.

"It bothers me that so many people are in the same bad shape as they were right after Katrina," she pointed out. "There are so many forgotten people living in tiny communities all along



Staff Sgt. Frederick Braxton left, 330th TRS, and Col. Wade Jenkins, 81st Medical Group, move a cedar log while clearing storm debris Nov. 4 at Camp Wilkes in North Biloxi. The Boy Scout camp, just north of Biloxi's Back Bay, sustained extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina's high winds and storm surge.

the coast that don't have the resources that larger cities have. There are people living in cars, gutted-out houses, attics, tents, in the woods — we're trying to concentrate on those who need us the most. We also try to refer them to agencies that can help them."

Sergeant Sargent is encouraged by the positive attitudes of coast residents, many who've lost their homes and virtually all of their material possessions.

"The people of south Mississippi have such resilience and enthusiasm," she commented. "You can see the despair melt off their faces when we come to help. I think I've passed out as many hugs as bags of rice."

"The men and women of Keesler rock my world," she declared. "The chaplains got us organized, and we've had great leadership and support from active-duty members, civilians and family members alike. The concern and dedication they've shown has been phenomenal."

"I've never been prouder to wear this uniform — we're going to plant these seeds of hope, and together we'll grow."



Master Sgt. Chris Mossor, left, 81st TRG, and Airman 1st Class Rebecca Sherry, 332nd TRS, strip the walls in a flooded Biloxi home Oct. 21.

Sergeant Sargent keeps mission moving

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Tech. Sgt. Julie Sargent arrived at Keesler Aug. 4 to begin her job as a basic electronics instructor for metrology in the 332nd Training Squadron.

Less than four weeks later, Hurricane Katrina battered the base, and her world changed radically, both personally and professionally.

All of her furniture and household goods were destroyed in a storage facility engulfed by 10 feet of storm surge. At this point in her 15-year Air Force career, she's living with her parents again.

Her Keesler duties took a totally different direction when she was pulled from the training arena to coordinate humanitarian outreach efforts.

"I guess I'm addicted to this kind of service," Sergeant Sargent admitted.

"As military members, we're obligated to protect and serve, and once you see the impact you have, you're changed forever."

Sergeant Sargent considers south Mississippi home, so Katrina's devastation was especially painful for her.

Her dad, Richard Sargent, is a retired first sergeant from Keesler. Although she graduated from Ocean Springs High School, she lived on base for several years. The house where her family once lived on 6th Street in Pinehaven housing area was destroyed by Katrina.

She said her parents instilled a sense of community service in her and her five brothers which she's carried throughout her military career. She's been an American Red Cross volunteer and gotten involved in



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Sergeant Sargent carries donated laundry detergent to the office area for the tent city at Rudy Moran Park in D'Iberville. The park is home to relief workers and displaced residents.

outreach programs wherever the Air Force has taken her.

Sergeant Sargent, who was over her maximum weight when she arrived in August, credits the "Katrina diet" with losing 30 pounds.

"Running on adrenaline, and coffee and missing meals when you're busy must be the key," she said.

"I'm loving every minute of this job," she added. "It's in my heart. I've been running into friends all over the place with this job. I'm so proud of how our community has pulled together."

Thrift Savings Plan

Catch-up system available

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force Personnel Center's civilian benefits and entitlements service team automated systems is available for 2006 Thrift Savings Plan catch-up contribution enrollment.

Military members may submit their 2006 catch-up contribution enrollments in early January.

TSP catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions, separate from regular TSP contributions.

"Catch-up contributions are a good way for individuals to secure their retirement if they began investing late in life," said Janet Thomas, a personnel center human resources specialist.

To be eligible for catch-up contributions, civilian and military employees must be age 50 or older in the year in which the first deduction from pay occurs, be in a pay status, and must be able to certify that they will make (or have made) the maximum "regular" TSP employee contributions of \$15,000 by the end of 2006. They must contribute the full \$15,000 since regular employee contributions are no longer limited to a set percentage each pay period.

However, if the employee is contributing — or has contributed — to both a civilian and uniformed services TSP account or another eligible employer plan (for example, another 401(k) plan) and the combined contributions would cause the employee to reach the \$15,000 elective deferral limit, the employee would be eligible to make catch-up contributions.

Employees also must not be in the six-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal.

Catch-up contributions have their own IRS annual limit separate from the annual limit for regular contributions. The maximum catch-up contribution for 2006 is \$5,000, while the IRS annual elective deferral limit for "regular" TSP contributions is \$15,000.

Catch-up contributions automatically stop with the last pay date in the calendar year or upon reaching the maximum catch-up dollar limit for the year, whichever comes first. Because the IRS annual elective deferral limit for catch-up contributions changes each year, participants must submit a new election each year.

Catching up

Civilians

Enrollments submitted Dec. 11 through Saturday are effective Sunday, with the first contribution deducted from their Jan. 13 pay. Subsequent enrollments are effective at the beginning of the next pay period.

When making a contribution election, employees need to designate a whole-dollar amount to contribute each pay day, rather than the annual maximum of \$5,000.

Employees shouldn't designate an amount that exceeds their net pay or payroll won't withhold any TSP contributions.

Employees wanting to spread their contributions evenly over the year divide their total contribution (up to the \$5,000 maximum) by the number of pay dates remaining in the year. There are 26 pay dates in 2006 for employees who submit their election Dec. 11 through Saturday.

Eligible Air Force-serviced civilian employees may enroll for catch-up contributions via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application or the BEST phone system. EBIS is at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/default.asp> or through the Air Force Portal at <http://www.my.af.mil>.

Employees may reach the BEST phone system by dialing toll-free 1-800-616-3775.

Additional information on the TSP catch-up contribution program is available on the BEST Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm> under "Thrift Savings Plan," and the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

Military

Catch-up contributions can be made at local military personnel flights and finance offices by filling out a Form TSP-U-1-C.

TSP percentage contribution limit goes away

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Effective next year, civilian and military employees are no longer subject to a percentage limit on the amount they may contribute to a regular Thrift Savings Plan account.

They may contribute the full amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service annual elective deferral limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans."

Investing in TSP isn't limited to stocks. People can choose safer government securities or invest in the new Lifecycle Funds.

Open seasons were eliminated July 1, so employees may start, change, stop or resume their TSP con-

tributions at any time (except those in the six-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal).

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

Eligible employees can take out loans, make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts, and keep their accounts even if they leave military or federal civilian service.

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck "so you never have to think about it," Ms. Thomas said. "That makes it easy to 'pay yourself first' while only investing what you deem appropriate."

"As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better," she said.

The five individual TSP funds are:

Government Securities Investment (G) Fund.

Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund.
Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund.

Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund.

International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

Participants may also choose to invest in the new Lifecycle (L) Funds.

Information on TSP investment funds is available on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/rates/fund-sheets.html>.

Specific information is available for civilian employees on the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> and the BEST site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm>.

Information is also in the booklet Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Marcela Travi, 81st Dental Squadron, approaches the finish line as Santa waves her in during the Jingle Bell 5-kilometer run Dec. 15 at Blake Fitness Center. Some participants wore Christmas costumes and all wore bells on their shoes during the race. The first five male and female runners, as well as the person with the best costume, Peggy Gore, spouse of Ronald Gore, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, received a T-shirt and everyone received a candy cane after crossing the finish line. There were 120 participants for the run. Santa was actually Coach Tim Cline, fitness center director.

HOLIDAY NOTES

Christmas Day meal — Keesler commanders, chiefs and first sergeants serve Christmas meals to Keesler personnel 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at the Pecan and Azalea dining facilities.

All meal card holders are eligible to participate.

Trip to Bellingerth Gardens in Alabama — 4-8 p.m. Wednesday. Cost is \$20 for admission and transportation.

Sign up at information, tickets and tours by noon Tuesday.

Vandenberg Community Center — free New Year's party, 6 p.m. Dec. 31 to 1 a.m. Jan. 1 for senior airmen and below; dancing, party favors and refreshments.

New Year's Eve bowling party — 8 p.m. Dec. 31 to 2 a.m. Jan. 1 at Gaude Lanes. Glow-in-the-dark bowling, music, dancing, prizes, free use of the game machines,

refreshments, party favors, non-alcoholic champagne toast and late-night breakfast.

Price for bowlers is \$30 for adults and \$20 for ages 5-17, including bowling shoes.

Non-bowlers pay \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Children age 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Alcoholic beverages sold separately.

KEESLER NOTES

Squadron function

The 81st Contracting Squadron closes 11 a.m. today for a unit function.

For emergencies, call 348-7550.

Vehicle decals

Vehicle decals are available in the visitors center at the White Avenue Gate.

Due to Hurricane Katrina, military, civilian and contractor identification cards may be used to gain access to the base.

For more information, call pass and registration, 377-2143 or 2595.

Speed limit up

The speed limit on Bayview Avenue behind Keesler Medical Center has been increased from 15 to 25 mph, according to safety officials.

Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to 81SUPS/LGSPQ, Attn: Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252, or e-mail to terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.

Supply visits

Supply customer liaison is available to visit organizations for feedback on support.

To schedule a visit, call Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252 or e-mail terry.brandenburg@

keesler.af.mil.

Detectors required

Base housing residents are required to sign up for carbon monoxide detectors at the self-help store unless they already have permanently-installed detectors.

One detector is required for single-story units and two for two-story units. Mounting instructions are available.

For more information, call base housing, 377-9741.

Preschool program

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5-year-olds in the 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. sessions.

Classes are Mondays-working Fridays at the youth activities center. For holiday hours, see Digest section.

Enrollment is at the child development center.

For more information, call 377-2211.

Fitting gas masks

Gas masks are fit tested 8-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Building 420, east of Fisher House on Fisher Street.

KOSC activities

For information on Keesler Officers Spouses Club activities, call Michelle Harper, 327-6848.



**New Year's
Eve
Party**

8 p.m.-2 a.m. Dec. 31
Gaudé Lanes

This party isn't just for bowlers!

Admission fee includes music, prizes, dancing,
party favors, free video games, heavy hors d'oeuvres,
non-alcoholic champagne toast and late night breakfast.

Price for Bowlers	Price for Nonbowlers
\$30 for adults.	\$20 for adults
\$20 for ages 6-17.	\$10 for ages 6-17
Free for ages 5 and younger.	Free for ages 5 and younger

Price includes glow bowling and shoes.

Children ages 11 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.
Alcoholic beverages sold separately.

Purchase your tickets early at the front desk.
For more information, call 377-2817.

New Orleans Mardi Gras Parades
Information, Tickets and Travel takes you there.
Iris and Tucks Parades ~ Feb. 25.



\$25 for transportation.
Sign up and prepay by
Feb. 16. Depart
Vandenberg Community
Center at 8 a.m. and
return by 6 p.m.
For more information,
call 377-3818.

Let the good times roll!

**1st Annual
Pre-Super Bowl
Flag Football
Tournament**



5-9 p.m. Jan. 30-Feb. 2
at the football/soccer field
No charge to enter.
Single elimination;
open to first 10 teams to register.
For more information, call 377-4409.

January 2006



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ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2821. For auto hobby shop information, call 377-3872.

Mold pouring class — 10 a.m. Jan. 13. \$25. Learn to pour your own ceramics.

Kid's crafting class — 11 a.m. Jan. 14. \$10. Snowman projects.

Beginners woodworking — 5-7:30 p.m. Jan. 4. \$25. Next class Feb. 1.

Beginning intarsia — 5 p.m. Jan. 6 or Jan. 20. \$15.

Advanced intarsia — 10 a.m. Jan. 7 or Jan. 21. \$20.

Framing class — one class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31. \$60.

Advanced matting class — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 27. \$25.

Beginning cake decorating — 1 p.m. Jan. 28. \$10.

MINI CRAFTS CENTER

Editor's note: Mini crafts center is in the Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2821.

Beginners ceramic painting class — 1 p.m. Jan. 7. \$10.

Mini scrapbook making class — 6:30 p.m. Jan. 19. \$10.

BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3832.

Free golf — front nine holes open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Walkers only; pull carts and rental clubs available.

Free driving range — open 7 a.m. to dusk daily.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2211.

Slots available — for child care; morning and afternoon spaces also available for preschool program for ages 3-5.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

Child care providers needed — to care for children in their homes on and off base.

FITNESS CENTERS

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-4385 or 4409.

STRIVE® total body challenge — 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 20, Blake Fitness Center. Test your strength in walk-in competition open to everyone. T-shirts to all participants, prizes for top male and female participants.

Basketball tournament — Jan. 17-26, Blake Fitness Center. Open to first 12 teams to register; event is tentative based on availability of sports officials.

GAUDÉ LANES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817.

All leagues — start in January; call your league secretary for information.

Youth league — registration 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 7; starts Jan. 14.

11th Frame Café — serves lunch and dinner; dine in or carry out.

HALF TIME CAFÉ

Editor's note: Located inside Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2424.

Open for lunch and dinner — pizza, wings, burgers, Philly steak sandwiches and more; dine in or take out.

INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL

Editor's note: Tours depart from and return to the Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-3818.

Shopping tour to Mobile, Ala. — Jan. 21. \$15 for transportation. Sign up and prepay by Jan. 18; depart 9 a.m., return 6 p.m.

KATRINA KANTINA

Editor's note: Located in the marina building. For more information, call 377-2719.

E-5s and above — snacks, beverages and music.

MCBRIDE LIBRARY

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2181.

Orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays for commanders, first sergeants and instructors.

Customer appreciation day — Jan. 18. Join us for punch and cookies.

Teddy bear tea party — 10 a.m. Jan. 18 and 25, ages 2-5.

MUSE MANOR MINI-MART

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2752.

Convenience store — snacks, cold drinks, health and hygiene products; open 24 hours a day.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3160.

Back bay pontoon boat tours — 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 14 and 28. \$5 per person. Minimum four, maximum eight people.

Children's wildlife poster contest — for all ages. Enter by Jan. 31. First prize \$100 savings bond, second prize \$50 bond.

January special — 10 percent off all rental equipment.

January fishing tournament — weigh in the largest catfish for the month and win a \$100 savings bond.

VANDEMBERG COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: Open to E-4s and below. For more information, call 377-3308.

New Year's Eve party — 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Free dance, party favors and refreshments.

Cybersports — Internet gaming.

Pool tournaments — 6 p.m. Monday, eight ball; 6 p.m. Tuesday, nine ball.

Game night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Dominos, Yahtzee, Uno, Phase 10 and ping pong tournaments.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Late night dances — 6 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. \$3 per person.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-6887.

Limited hours and services — 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for over-the-counter sales.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-4116.

Annual membership — \$25 for ages 6 and older. Savings on programs, classes and sports.

Junior NBA youth basketball league registration — sign-up Jan. 3-14, ages 6-12. Practice in January, season runs February-March. \$25 for members, \$30 nonmembers.

TRAIL Keystone teen meeting — 6 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 13-17. Outdoor adventures and community service projects.

Smart girls — 5 p.m. Tuesdays for ages 9-16. Girls only topics; discussion and activities promote healthy life choices.

Wacky Wednesdays — 5-6 p.m. Jan. 4, foosball tournament; Jan. 11, ping pong tournament; Jan. 18, Uno tournament and Jan. 25, pool tournament.

Torch Club — 5 p.m. Thursdays, ages 9-12.

Friday dances — 6:30-10 p.m., ages 9-15. \$4 for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

Super Saturdays — 2-5 p.m., ages 6-12. Games and family skating.

Teen Super Saturdays — 6-10 p.m., ages 13-18. Jan. 7, open mike; Jan. 14, fitfactor fun; Jan. 21, three-on-three basketball tournament; Jan. 28, Super Bowl football frenzy dance.

Read by mail — register on-line. Meet 4:30 p.m. Jan. 5 and 19. Discuss books, take a test, and log progress for cool prizes.

Boys and Girls Club fine arts competition — submissions due Jan. 12; 10 categories for ages 9-18.

Free home alone safety workshop — 6 p.m. Jan. 19; register by Jan. 18. Parent and child safety workshop.

HAPPENINGS is a monthly supplement to the Keesler News produced by the 81st Services Division. Information is subject to change without notice. No federal endorsement of sponsors or sports promoters intended.

Earlene Smith, publicist; Cindy Milford, illustrator; Tom Golden, commercial sponsorship coordinator.

PLEASE PULL OUT AND KEEP THIS SUPPLEMENT
AS A HANDY REFERENCE FOR MONTHLY EVENTS
OF THE 81ST SERVICES DIVISION.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Keesler needs sports officials for intramurals

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Officials wanted.

With the exception of the special Turkey Bowl flag football tournament held in November, there have been no intramural sports activities at Keesler since Hurricane Katrina hit Aug. 29. But the reasons have very little, if anything, to do with the storm itself.

There's no one to officiate contests, according to Coach Tim Cline, fitness center director.

"Our contract with the previous officials expired in October," he said. "Unfortunately, there is nobody bidding on the contract so we are stuck right now. We have to bid on an officials' contract for each fiscal year."

According to Air Force Instruction 34-266, the base needs to have certified officials to properly call games, Cline said.

"We need to have certified officials to enforce the rules and regulations of the game," he said. "The officials are also responsible for the safety of the players competing."

One of the temporary solutions, as in the Turkey Bowl, is to use volunteer officials. However, Linda Marinovich, assistant fitness center manager, said there are problems with that as well.

"Each official has to have the proper certification to officiate," she said. "Referees usually attend a seminar to gain their certification. They also need the referee shirt, hat and whistle. Right now, getting certification to people who would like to volunteer is a challenge."

Another reason there are no intramural sports, according to Cline, is a lack of squadron representatives to the sports council.

"Before the storm, we had regular meetings with the base sports council," he said. "Attendees to those meeting were squadron sports repre-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Grubb, right, looks at a play during the Turkey Bowl flag football championship game Nov. 22. Grubb, a certified

sports official, trained two other Keesler personnel to help officiate the double-elimination tournament.

sentatives. Since the storm, people have left the area and we don't have any squadron representatives."

Representatives are assigned by squadron commanders.

"If a squadron commander doesn't give anyone this responsibility, then no one attends the meetings," Cline said. "If we can't have these meetings, it's impossible for the base to have any type of intramural sports."

James Grubb, Keesler sports director, said the cost of officiating games can get expensive.

"A ref needs at least one hat, shirt, shoes, pants, whistle, etc.," said Grubb. "The cost of all of the equipment is around \$200."

"With people still recovering from the storm, that is a good chunk of money," he

continued. "Officials get paid for officiating the games, but I usually tell them it takes about a year to make a profit, due to the cost of paying for their equipment."

Another issue is the sheer number of games played throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"With all of the recreation leagues, church leagues, youth leagues and high school games being played, there are more games than officials right now," Grubb said.

He also said training officials isn't simply a matter of teaching them the rules for their sport.

"It takes approximately five to 10 hours of instruction before an official is ready to do a game," Grubb said. "This includes about one to three hours of classroom

work; one to three hours of being on the field with a veteran, one to three hours of actual game experience, and depending on the certification, a 100-question certification test."

"All of this needs to be taught by a certified official. Without all of that, there's no way to give certification."

He added that sports officials include other people besides those on the playing field or court.

"Time keepers and scoreboard keepers are also part of the officials' family," he explained. "They need to be trained as well. They don't have to have certification, but they do need to know the basic rules (when to stop the clock, what markings to make, etc.)"

"In the past, we liked to have those who are beginning teamed with people who have

been doing it for a while. A lot of times those positions have been filled by family members no longer here because of the storm."

Grubb said athletics officials are working on a plan to resume intramural sports in the coming months.

"We are looking at a double-elimination basketball tournament in January," he said. "Just before the Super Bowl, we'll have a single-elimination flag football tournament. We'll have a soccer tournament in February and another basketball tournament in March."

"In April, we'll have a volleyball tournament and in May, June and July, we'll do softball."

"I hope to bring in officials I know from around the area to help officiate each of these tournaments," Grubb said.

Bowling for prizes

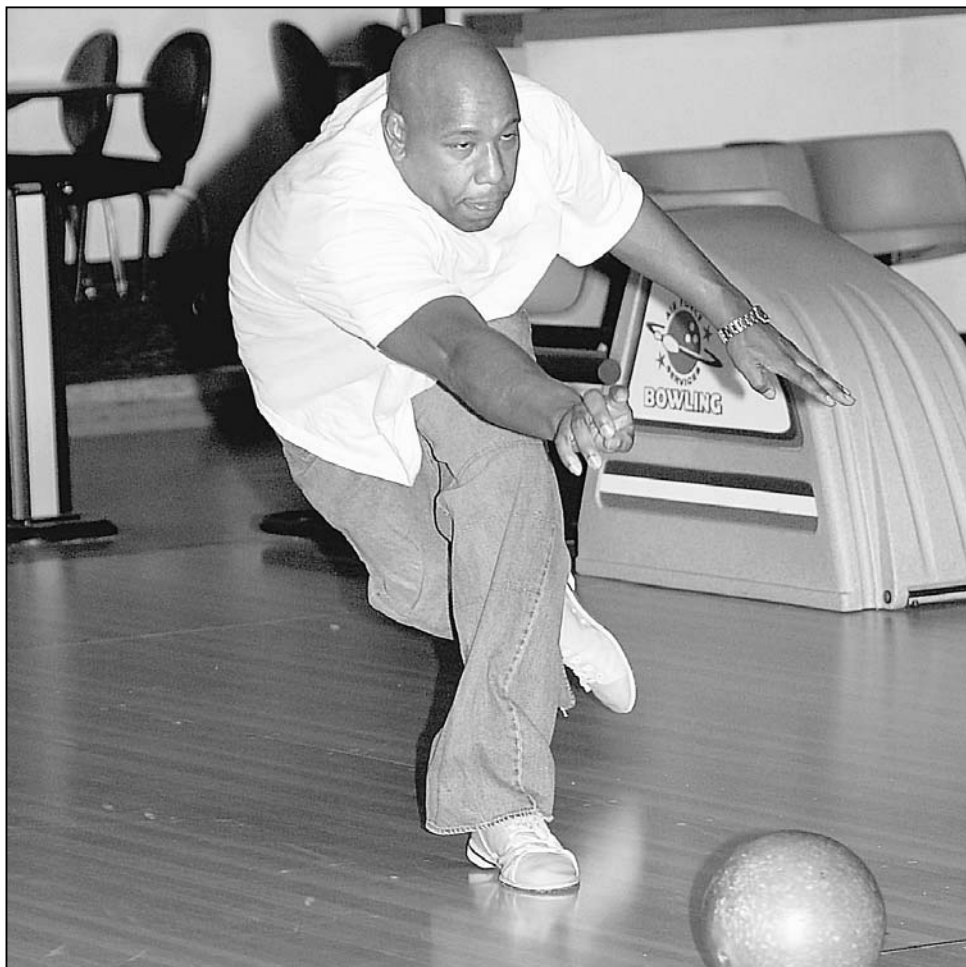


Photo by Kimberly Groue

Tony Worford, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, bowls during the Dorm World 3 competition at Gaudé Lanes Dec. 15. The event was for single, permanent

party, enlisted dormitory residents of the base. The grand prize winner, Jason Winters, 81st CES, won a new bowling ball.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

Intramural leagues — start in January; call your league secretary for information.

Youth leagues — registration 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 7; start Jan. 14.

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — open Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed non-working Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The basketball court area isn't available.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Football

Pre-Super Bowl flag football tournament — 5-9 p.m. Jan. 30-Feb. 2 at the football/soccer field. Single-elimination for the first 10 teams to register. For more information, call 377-4409.

Golf

The front nine holes of the Bay Breeze Golf Course open at 7 a.m., and free for walkers only, pull carts and golf clubs available. Driving range opens at 7 a.m. daily, for free use.

Outdoor recreation

Katrina Kantina — a lounge for adults age 21 and over is in the main marina building. Opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For more information, call 377-3160.

Fam camp — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who've been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

Youth activities center

Open recreation — Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., ages 6 and older.

Air Force names male, female athletes of year

By Steve VanWert

Air Force Services Agency

SAN ANTONIO — One shoots at targets, the other at strikeouts, but both are the Air Force Services Agency's Athletes of the Year for 2005.

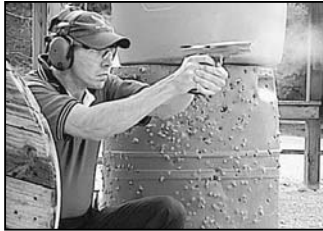
Roger Sherman, a special assistant to the commander of U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., is the 2005 Male Athlete of the Year.

He is a member of the Air Force Action Pistol team, which is comprised of some of the Air Force's top shooters.

They compete internationally in the sport of practical pistol shooting.

Twyla Sears, 353rd Operations Support Squadron, at Kadena Air Base, Japan, is the 2005 Female Athlete of the Year.

Sears is a pitcher for the All Armed Forces Women's Softball Team that won the Amateur Softball Association's 2004 Western Regional Soft-



Courtesy photo
Sherman takes aim at targets on the Eastern Nebraska Gun Club firing range.

ball Championship. She earned First Team All-American honors.

Both athletes were "stunned" to hear the news that they had been selected.

"It's great to be recognized for something you've worked so hard for," Sherman said. "I was overwhelmed with gratitude to my wife and son for all the sacrifices they



Courtesy photo
Sears swings at a softball during a game at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

made, allowing me to work toward my goals.

"I couldn't have done it without my family's complete love and support," Sears said. "I think this award shows everyone that you're not just a statistic and that you are valued and recognized for accomplishments that aren't necessarily job-related."

Sherman was the only military

service member selected to the U.S. Practical Shooting national team.

His event combines many dimensions of shooting, including drawing from a holster and shooting at multiple moving targets.

He finished sixth of 700 competitors at the U.S. Practical Shooting Association National Handgun Championship and was a bronze medalist at the world championship, competing against 1,200 shooters.

Sears is recognized as one of the military's best softball players. Her all-star team advanced to represent the Armed Forces at the Western Regional tournament.

Her performance led the armed forces team to the softball championship.

She went on to pitch the Armed Forces team to second place in the Amateur Softball Association's Major Level Division championship.

Air Force returns to Wood Brothers for Nextel Cup's 2006 season

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force's participation in NASCAR's Nextel Cup Series continues in 2006 as associate advertiser with the Wood Brothers/JTG Racing No. 21 car.

The 2006 race season marks the sixth year the Air Force has been racing with the Wood Brothers' racing team.

Veteran Ken Schrader replaces Ricky Rudd as driver.

Schrader has been a NASCAR driver for the last 20 years.

Over that span, Schrader has earned four victories, 64 top-five and 181 top-10 finishes in his 640 career starts.

"Our participation in NASCAR supports our overall recruiting effort and strengthens awareness of the Air Force among the general public," said Brig. Gen. Dutch Remkes, commander of Air Force Recruiting Service. "With the show car program and the additional races featuring an Air Force blue paint scheme, NASCAR provides us another important forum to reach potential recruits and their families."

For the 2006 season, the

Air Force has the use of three Air Force paint scheme No. 21 show cars for display at high schools and technical colleges, a number of personal appearances by Schrader, as well as eight Nextel Cup Series races in which the No. 21 car appears in an Air Force paint scheme.

"We're excited about the upcoming season, as we were able to double the number from last year of Nextel Cup races featuring the No. 21 car in Air Force blue," said General Remkes. "It promises to be an exciting year for Air Force recruiting and Wood Brothers/JTG Racing."



Courtesy photo
The Wood Brothers No. 21 car with the Air Force symbol from a 2005 Nextel Cup race.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Dante Adams, Brandy Baxter, Cory Benson, Bo Brauer, John Castro, Eric Cerda, Nicholas Conklin, Christopher Consalvo, Kristopher Dahlke, Christopher Dipietro, Jeremy Driscoll, Robert Drye, Michael Ford, Jacqueline Garcia, Luke Greiner, Kyle Hauck, Jonathan Hernandez, Robert Higham, Saul Houston, Andrea Hunzeker, Kenzie James, Daniel Johnsen, Patrick Kinney, Benjamin Leavey, Patrick Lessnau, Christopher Mahieu, Heather Mangerson, Aaron McLees, Justin Morgan, Christopher Morris, Michael Moulin, Lannie Neely, Ryan Nicholson, Timothy Ogburn, David Phaup, Donald Rainville, Gramm Roberts, Jonica Scott, Daniel Scheiner, Jason Shortell, Jason Shelor, Christopher Slight, Shaina Smith, Matthew Smither, Lindsay Stewart, Antonio Tirado, Sarah Thompson, Jason Unovitch, Randy Waile, Dustin Walls, Michael Willis, Aaron Winans and Christopher Zoglmann; Airmen Brian Bianco, Len Carter, Cory Elenbaas, Cory Fillis, Derek Gauldin, Daniel Gray, Michael Keany, Tyler Martin, Marie Ostro, Guillermo Salcedo, Matthew Sanderson and Christopher Stroup; Airmen 1st Class Dennis Anderson, Justin Atkins, Clinton Baggett, Eric Braun, Christopher Brewer, Wesley Cato, Brandon Cousins, Meagan Cuthbert, Derrick Dugay, David Fabacher, Christopher Flesner, Joe Garcia, Eric Hanna, David Henderson, Nathan Hines, Juan Johnson, Toby Ketchman, Nicholas Kynett, Jack Lalone, Joel Lisee, Kelvin Ma, Kristopher Miller, Noel Morgan, Nile Pollock, Kyle Reece, Juan Saez-Ortiz, Brian Schmedlin, Corey Shaffer, Eric Tate, Oni Ung, Kevin Wolff and Xiong Yang; Staff Sgts. Gerald Blatt, Kenneth Gardner and Joshua Kersker; Tech. Sgt. Anthony Tribelli.

336th TRS

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Leo Mangahas, April Ouellette, Jamie Parker, Katrese Parker and Yao Saeurn; Airmen 1st Class Jonathon Beck, Michael Bennett, James Blomberg, Kevin Boyd, Adam Flood, Chaison Griffi, Daniel Melende, Christina Perez, Benjamin Scheikwardt and Naomi Simmons.

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Kevin Glavin and Steven Lybbert; Airmen 1st Class James Buchanan and Jonathan Hughes; Senior Airmen Ryan Cray and Derek Perrault; Staff Sgts. Bradley Bolbach, Jonathan Eastwood, Phillip Ramil and Nicholas Walker; Tech. Sgt. Billie Wolfe.

338th TRS

Ground radio — Airmen Arthur Arce, Sam Lombardo and Erik Nielsen; Airmen 1st Class Madison Collins, Jesse Herre, Sara Nass, Brett Polzin and Michael Reynolds; Staff Sgt. Michael Mazurik.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass	
Larcher Chapel	10 a.m.
Daily Mass	
Larcher Chapel.....	11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship	
Larcher Chapel traditional service.....	8:30 a.m.
Fishbowl student contemporary service.....	10 a.m.
Larcher Chapel praise and worship service	11:30 a.m.
Larcher Chapel gospel service.....	1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 3 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 06-B — Jan. 23-March 1.
Class 06-C — April 3-May 9.
Class 06-D — May 22-June 27.
Class 06-E — Aug. 1-Sept. 6.
Class 06-F — Sept. 18-Oct. 25.
Class 06-G — Nov. 1-Dec. 12.

First Term Airmen Center

Upcoming schedule hasn't been announced.

Keesler NCO Academy

Upcoming schedule hasn't been announced.

Health and wellness center

Stress management — 3 p.m. Wednesday.
Tobacco cessation — classes resume in January; call 377-5305.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas and New Year's holidays

Editor's note: Hours for these base facilities reflect changes in operation due to the Christmas Day federal holiday, observed Monday, and the New Year's Day federal holiday, observed Jan. 2.

Hours of 81st Services Division facilities are subject to change without notice. Any Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities not listed are closed.

Keesler News — closed Monday and Jan. 2

Commissary — 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday and Jan. 1; hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on other days through December; hours change to 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting Jan. 2.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Car wash — open 24 hours.

Fam camp — open 24 hours.

Mini-mart — open 24 hours.

Blake Fitness Center — 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Marina — closed until further notice.

Outdoor recreation — closed through Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2.

Vandenberg Community Center and Half Time Café — 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. today and Friday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Monday through Dec. 30; 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 and noon to 6 p.m. Jan. 1-2; closed Sunday.

Arts and crafts center — closed until further notice.

Auto hobby shop — closed through Jan. 3.

Keesler Club — closed until further notice.

Enlisted lounge — closed until further notice.

Katrina Kantina — closed through Jan. 2

Bay Breeze Golf Course — open daily for free play.

Dragon Fitness Center — closed through Jan. 2.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Information, ticket and travel office — closed through Jan. 2.

Keesler Community Center — closed until further notice.

Youth activities center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. today; closed through Jan. 2.

Child development center — closed Friday-Monday and Dec. 30-Jan. 2.

Family child care — closed Monday and Jan. 2.

Gaudé Lanes — 5-10 p.m. today, Friday, Wednesday, Dec. 29-30; 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31, closed Saturday-Tuesday and Jan. 1-2.

McBride Library — noon to 5 p.m. today, Friday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Dec. 29-30; closed Saturday-Monday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2.

Veterinary clinic — closed Friday, Monday, Dec. 30 and Jan. 2.

Triangle mini-mall — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1.

Class Six/Four Seasons — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1.

Furniture store — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31; closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

Service station — store 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31, closed Sunday and Jan. 1; shop 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31, closed Sunday and Jan. 1; gas lanes 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31, closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

Military clothing sales — closed.

Mobile units — closed.

Dawg Daze Hot Dogs — closed.

Subway — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Jan. 1; closed Sunday.

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:04	:34
:07	:37
:08	:38
:09	:39
:10	:40
:11	:41
:12	:42
:13	:43
:14	:44
:15	:45
:16	:46
:17	:47
:18	:48

Technical training route 5:10-5:37 a.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:10	Building 5025
:12	Building 5022
:14	Shaw House
:16	Muse Manor
:18	Tyer House
:20	TLQ east side 2000 block
:21	TLQ east side of Locker House
:25	332nd TRS
:28	Welch Auditorium
:33	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:34	McClellan Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off-base

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

Editor's note: Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged or have excess baggage, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430.

Seattle's Best Coffee — closed.

Pizza shop — closed Dec. Saturday, Sunday and Jan. 1.

CyberZone — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

General Nutrition Center — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31; closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

Triangle barber shop — noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31; closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

Triangle beauty shop — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

Triangle laundry/cleaners — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

At Ease Embroidery — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 31; closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

Enterprise Car Rental — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Sunday and Jan. 1.

TRANSITIONS

Web sites

Defense Manpower Data Center — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbbs>.

Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray — <http://www.blue.togray.com>.

Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

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Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efif/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/jobfair>.

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including jobs from public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

America's Job Bank — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

Computer use

Government computers — commanders may authorize their use for preparation of personal resumes by people separating or retiring from the service on an "as available" basis as long as use doesn't adversely affect the mission.

Transition employment opportunities public folder — go to e-mail "public folders" and click on "transition employment opportunities" for job opportunities for active duty and family members. For more information, call 377-8592 or 8593.

MEETINGS

Editor's note: To list time, place and point of contact for organization meetings, call 377-3837 or e-mail KN@keesler.af.mil.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — noon Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, or Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Native American Heritage Committee — for more information, call R.I. Whiteside, 863-0479, or Capt. Elizabeth Taillon, 377-6242.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies are shown at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 7 p.m., Jarhead (R).
Saturday and Sunday — closed.
Dec. 30 — 7 p.m., Get Rich or Die Tryin' (R).

Dec. 31 — 2 p.m., Yours, Mine and Ours (PG); no 7 p.m. show.

Jan. 1 — closed.

Jan. 6 — 7 p.m., Derailed (PG-13).

Jan. 7 — 2 p.m., Zathura (PG); 7 p.m., Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13).

Jan. 8 — 2 p.m., Walk the Line (PG-13).

DINING HALL MENUS

Holiday hours

Magnolia Dining Facility — 6-8 a.m. workdays, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. down Fridays, weekends and holidays; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5-6:30 p.m.

Pecan Dining Facility — 5:30-7:30 a.m. workdays, 7:30-9 a.m. down Fridays, weekends and holidays; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5-6:30 p.m.

Azalea Dining Facility — closed through Jan. 2; open 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 3.

Live Oak Dining Facility — closed through Jan. 4.

Today and Jan. 5

Lunch — herbed baked chicken, cornbread, stuffed cabbage rolls, fried catfish, blackeyed peas with rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Dinner — roast pork loin, cornbread, jaegerschnitzel veal, glazed cornish hen, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Friday and Jan. 6

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken, Swiss steak, garlic toast, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, rice, gravy, corn on the cob, beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Dinner — lasagna, spaghetti and meat sauce, Italian sweet sausage, garlic toast, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli polonaise, cauliflower, Italian baked beans, pasta salad, three-bean salad, cornbread, clam chowder, vegetable soup, chicken chili, corn O'Brien, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday and Jan. 7

Lunch — crispy baked chicken, cajun meatloaf, ribeye steak, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, French peas, glazed carrots, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

Dinner — fish almonline, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and buffalo wings.

Christmas Day

Lunch and dinner — shrimp cocktail, chicken rice soup, German potato salad, roast turkey, baked ham, beef rib roast, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, parsley potatoes, corn on the cob, peas, green beans, apple and pecan pies, almond pound cake, soft-serve yogurt and candy.

Monday and Jan. 9

Lunch — baked chicken, Swiss steak, baked Italian sausage, peppers and onions, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli polonaise, carrots, cornbread, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — turkey, cornbread, ham, raisin sauce, fish and fries, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, gravy, succotash, tempura vegetables, green beans, garden cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Tuesday and Jan. 10

Dinner — onion lemon baked fish, pork schnitzel steak, yakisoba, garlic toast, baked and mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, stewed tomatoes, spinach salad, waldorf salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup and steak and cheese subs.

Lunch — paprika beef, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, garlic toast, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, spinach salad, white chicken chili, seven-bean with ham soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Wednesday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken and pork chops, beef fajitas, jalapeno cornbread, refried beans, corn, gravy, pinto beans, peas and carrots, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — pita pizzas, country-style steak, fried chicken, potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, bean combo, cabbage, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dec. 29 and Jan. 12

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Dinner — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Dec. 30

Lunch — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Dinner — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Dec. 31

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, baked potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

New Year's Day

Lunch — loin strip steak, baked chicken, baked ham, gravy, rice pilaf, baked potato, black-eyed peas, collard greens, corn on the cob, summer squash, fruit cocktail salad, candies, shrimp cocktail, split pea with ham soup, fruit salad, potato salad and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Jan. 2

Lunch — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, roast pork loin, oven-brown potatoes, rice, gravy, califlower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, Polish sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Jan. 3

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, harvard beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbeque beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Jan. 4

Lunch — Chinese five-spice chicken, beef and broccoli stir fry, Cantonese spareribs, vegetable egg rolls, shrimp fried rice, stir fry vegetables, chow mein noodles, fried cabbage, chicken gravy, lemon sesame green beans, Mexican coleslaw, pasta fagioli soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, barbecue ribs, jalapeno cornbread, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Jan. 8

Lunch — tuna and noodles, sauerbraten, chicken breast filet parmesan, au gratin potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, peas, fried cabbage, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — ginger barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, spinach lasagna, orange rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, black-eyed peas, lima beans, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, jellied spring salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Jan. 11

Lunch — fried chicken, cajun baked fish, barbecue ribs, rice, jalapeno cornbread, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, okra and tomato gumbo, fried cabbage, cole slaw, garden cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — pita pizzas, country-style steak, fried chicken, potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, bean combo, cabbage, coleslaw, cottage cheese salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.